Section 5. Export of Forest produce.

64. The Gun Carriage Factory in Bombay was supplied with 8,238 cubic feet of Babul timber. The export of firewood to Bombay and Katiawar ports was 43,746 Bengal maunds. The larger quantity of charcoal sold from the forests would show that its export is on the increase, but the figures showing the actual quantity of forest made charcoal exported cannot be given as delivery of the charcoal by the purchaser is taken in the forest and the general export includes charcoal made outside forest limits by private holders of forest land and by those who make charcoal of trees removed from canal banks.

65 Another attempt is being made to get Babul bark into the English Market.

Chapter V. Financial Results.

66. A comparative statement of the total receipts and expenditure during the last two years is given below :—

	Actuals for 1885-86.	Actuals for 1886-87.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Receipts.....	5,36,874	6,85,782	1,48,908	...
Expenditure—				
A. Conservency and works	2,96,893	4,04,090	1,07,197	...
B. Establishment	1,05,767	1,13,613	7,846	...
Total Expenditure.....	4,02,660	5,17,703	1,15,043	...
Net Revenue...	1,34,214	1,68,079	33,865	...

The revenue both gross and net is the largest ever made in the Sind Circle, but the expenditure as compared to receipts is far larger than in other Circles, but the reason for this is very easy to show. The chief product of the other two Circles is timber, an article valuable in itself, and it is either sold standing to the purchaser or is cut departmentally and sold on the edge of the forest so that the expenses of working the forests are reduced to a minimum. The chief product of the Sind forests is firewood for which there is practically no demand in the Forests; before it can be disposed of it has to be cut, carted or carried on pack-animals and boated from distances ranging from seven to over a hundred miles—forty being a very common distance for wood to be carried before it can be delivered at the place of consumption. Firewood moreover is cheaper in Sind than it is in any other district I know of in India—so that it is only by studying the convenience of large consumers and by strict economy in working charges and by most careful arrangements in placing the wood in suitable localities on the bank of the river, side-channels and canals, for boating during the different stages in the rise and fall of the river that it is possible to show a profit over working expenses. The Railway authorities only consent to burn it so long as they can get it at about half the price of its equivalent in coal and the Port Engineer has been careful to inform me that there is very little profit in the use of wood fuel over coal and rejected a very large quantity of wood as not *dry enough* that had been cut six months.

67. In reviewing last year's Forest Administration Reports Government took exception to the large expenditure in Sind as compared with net receipts. I would submit as I have already shown that a very large profit from forests worked chiefly for firewood is impossible, and that to get a revenue at all out of them in the absence of demand for firewood in the immediate neighbourhood of the forests a large expenditure is absolutely necessary for the carriage of the wood to places where sale can be found for it. Furthermore, in making comparisons of financial results some regard should be had to the area available as well as the quality of the forest materials which forms the source of revenue in each Circle. Taken in this way the comparison would be in favour of Sind—See figures for 1885-86.

	Area in Acres.	Net revenue.	Yield per acre.
		Rs.	
Northern Circle...	51,39,029	3,73,657	0 1 2
Southern Circle...	32,47,682	10,69,528	0 5 1
Sind Circle.....	4,30,926	1,34,214	0 4 11

The revenue of the Southern Circle was extraordinarily high during this year owing to the local demand for sleepers, otherwise the net Sind revenue per acre would have been the largest, and would be so in ordinary years. That Sind with its wretched jungles can yield results that in any way compare with the Southern Circle with its magnificent Teak forests should entitle the Forest management to some small credit for the efforts made to extract a revenue from those jungles.

General Remarks.

68. With the exception of the great damage done by forest fires in Upper Sind and the loss of area of good forest land in the same district by erosion, the season has been an uneventful though a prosperous one.

69. I began my tour in Lower Sind and extended it to the Kashmor Taluka in the Upper Sind Frontier Districts.

This taluka is very sparsely populated and the population is largely nomadic. All the part of it lying along the river to a depth of some 10 to 12 miles is practically a jungle with clearings in it. Much of the jungle is good Bhan forest and the greater part of the rest valuable as a source of fuel supply for the Sukkur Main Station. The distances are great, ranging from thirty-five to fifty-five miles, but as the wood has to be boated down river it is just possible to deliver it at Sukkur within the maximum rate the Department can afford to pay.

The District has not been surveyed and there are no village maps available. For this and other reasons forest demarcation is not at present feasible but there is a Protective Establishment consisting of a Forester and six Forest Guards who were placed some years ago in charge of the jungles in the taluka pending demarcation. By arrangement with the Deputy Commissioner this Establishment is to remain but its attention is to be confined to four villages and two Kachas on which all the principal forest is situated.

70 I was able to personally inspect the greater part of the area of every Division and can speak very highly of the excellent care taken of the forests and the absence of lopping by goatherds which used to be so common in the lately acquired Reserves.

71. I very thoroughly inspected a considerable part of the area in Upper Sind which came under the axe when the Department first began to supply the Railway with fuel. In the compartments that have not suffered from fire the reproduction is very satisfactory and in two or three years' time they will be ready to work again, but in others the growth has been once or often destroyed by fire and though the Kandi has coppiced again after each fire the progress of the compartments towards maturity has been much retarded.

72. I inspected the books, accounts and records of all the Divisional Offices and found them in a satisfactory state.

73. All the Divisional Forest Officers have worked well and carried out their duties with zeal and intelligence.

Conservator's Office,
Hyderabad,
10*th September* 1887.

J. G. MACRAE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Conservator of Forests Sind Circle.